

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 10466 241400Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 EB-08 SP-02 TRSE-00

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 XMB-02 AID-05 /065 W

-----033308 241410Z /44

O 241350Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1492

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 10466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (TINDEMANS, LEO), BE, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS: DISCUSSION

TOPICS: MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 10322, (B) BRUSSELS 08916, (C) STATE

183831

1. ON JULY 28 THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HANDED US AN "INFORMAL PAPER" OUTLINING ITS PROPOSALS FOR A COORDINATED RESPONSE BY BENEFACITOR COUNTRIES TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S APPEAL FOR A "MARSHALL PLAN" FOR ZAIRE (REF B). THE THRUST OF THE BELGIAN PAPER WAS THAT THE U.S., FRANCE, BELGIUM, UK, AND SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD SYSTEMATICALLY COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS TO HELP ZAIRE STRAIGHTEN OUT ITS ECONOMY AND INSTITUTE A RATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. THE BELGIAN IDEA IS TO BUILD ON EXISTING IMF/IBRD AID ARRANGEMENTS, CONCENTRATING ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO INSURE EFFICIENT AND DISCIPLINED USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

2. ON AUGUST 25 THE DEPARTMENT MADE A GENERALLY FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO THE BELGIAN INITIATIVE (REF C), STRESSING OUR INSISTENCE ON CONTINUING EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSIST ZAIRE. WE SUGGESTED THAT BELGIUM REFINE ITS THINKING ON JUST HOW THE DESIRED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 10466 241400Z

IMPROVED COOPERATION AMONG ASSISTING STATES WOULD BE DEVELOPED.

3. THE POLITICAL BACKGROUND FOR THE BELGIAN INITIATIVE IS MOBUTU'S DIRECT REQUEST TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT DURING HIS BRUSSELS VISIT IN JUNE THAT IT TAKE THE LEAD IN ORGANIZING A "MARSHALL PLAN" DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR ZAIRE.

THE BELGIANS REGARDED THIS DUBIOUS HONOR AS A NOT-SUBTLE REMINDER THAT IT WAS FRANCE, NOT BELGIUM WHICH STEPPED FORWARD SMARTLY TO HELP MOBUTU TURN BACK THE SHABA INVASION AND NOW IT WAS BELGIUM'S TURN TO BE HELPFUL.

4. BELGIANS WERE INDEED CONCERNED BY THE RELATIVE RISE IN FRENCH INFLUENCE IN ZAIRE AS A RESULT OF PARIS' VIGOROUS SUPPORTIVE ACTION. MOREOVER, THE SECOND TINDEMANS CABINET, JUST FORMED, INCLUDES FOREIGN MINISTER HENRI SIMONET, WHO STRONGLY ADVOCATES AN ACTIVE BELGIAN POLICY IN ZAIRE IN SUPPORT OF MOBUTU. MOBUTU'S RECENT DISMISSAL OF CENTRAL BANK HEAD SAMBWA AND FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA HAS SHAKEN THE SIMONET CAMP BUT NOT YET SAPPED ITS RESOLVE TO WORK THROUGH MOBUTU IN SEEKING TO STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FABRIC OF THE FORMER COLONY.

5. TINDEMANS AND SIMONET WILL WISH TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE NATURE OF THE MOBUTU PURGE AND WHAT IT PORTENDS FOR HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH WELL-INTENTIONED WESTERN COUNTRIES. THE BELGIANS WILL NO DOUBT URGE THAT A STRAIGHTENING-OUT OF THE BELGIAN ECONOMY REMAINS STRONGLY IN THE WESTERN INTEREST AND THAT THE KIND OF EXPERTISE AND DISCIPLINE THAT THE BELGIAN PROPOSALS SEEK TO APPLY TO THE AID EFFORT IS NOW ALL THE MORE NECESSARY. THEY WILL HOPE TO NAIL DOWN US SUPPORT, PUBLICLY IF POSSIBLE. CHAMBERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE10466
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770305-1007
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770830/aaaaazca.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 43b1de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRUSSELS 10322, 77 BRUSSELS 8916, 77 STATE 1969
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1508387
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS: DISCUSSION TOPICS: MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE
TAGS: OVIP, BE, US, (TINDEMANS, LEO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/43b1de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009